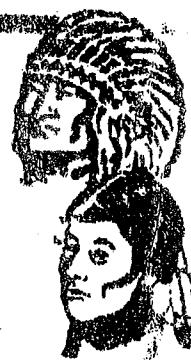




Joint School District No. 8

Box 37 - Arlee, Montana 59821-0037 (406) 726-3216 - FAX (406) 726



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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Gordon E. Friberg - Superintendent
Lisa Miller - Elementary Principal
Richard Bachmeier - Jr. Hi/High School Principal

Page: 1 of 19 pages

TO: Norma Bixby, Holly Raser/Ed Butcher / Doug Corderer/Franke Wilmer

FAX: (406) 444-4825 House

Jacy Jones / Carol Duncan

PHONE:

FROM: Students at Arlee High School & Teacher, Mrs. Wilhemina "Willie" Wright.

DATE:

2/21/07 1:25 p.m.

RE:

Letters from students and Mrs. Willie Wright's
American Indian History Class at Arlee High School

Letters of support for HB-750
W.Wright 66 - 726-3216 (workphone)

Arlee School Fax # - 726 3940

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wilhemina "Willie" Wright

Note: If you do not receive all of the pages of the FAX, or if any pages are illegible, please telephone 406-726-3216, ext. 230.

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February 21, 2007
Arlee High School
P.O. Box 37
Arlee, Montana 59821

Dear Honorable Members of the House of Representatives: (House Education Committee Members):

Greetings from the Jocko Valley here in Arlee, Montana situated on the beautiful Flathead Indian Reservation. My students at Arlee High School and myself are sending Letters to request your support of House Bill 750 to provide funding for the Revitalization of Montana's Native Languages.

I am sending my letter and the students letters by fax machine.

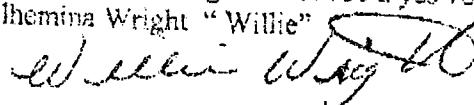
Dear House Education Committee Members:

We just heard about this bill going before the House of Representatives and we have urgently done our best in a hurried fashion to get letters of support sent to you regarding HB 570. We did not have time to proof read our letters so we do apologize for any errors in grammar or sentence structure. No polished letters because time is of utmost importance for the public to have a voice in the democratic process.

I have been a teacher in the Arlee Public School system for the past 29 years. Our school has a K-12 Salish Language Program which is very unique when you consider Native American Language revitalization. Also in the Arlee Community we have a Salish Immersion School called Nkwusm. The immersion schools are in desperate need of a funding base to keep their schools up and running. They struggle in their efforts to secure funding to support the financial needs to operate a school. These grants that would be funded through H.B. 750 is a way to bring HOPE to a people in their efforts to Save their American Indian Languages from becoming extinct. Our elders are dying and Literally taking our native languages to their graves.

My granddaughter is in her second year attending the Salish Nkwusm Language School And she likes going to Nkwusm School. I am very proud of my six year old granddaughter for learning the language of her Salish people. I teach two classes of Salish language here in the Arlee Public School System and I am sad to say that I am Salish Limit Proficient. And that my first language is English. It is my hope that my granddaughter and I can grow in our understanding and speaking of the Salishan Language. My granddaughter at this time is correcting her 55 year old grandmother in the correct pronunciation of Salish words.

I sincerely HOPE that you will give H.B. 750 a yes vote today.
Sincerely, Wilhemina Wright "Willie"



Dear Congressional Representative,

2-24-07

My name is Miranda Fox and I attend Arlee High School here on the Flathead Reservation in Montana. I am a young Native American girl who fully supports the Native American language being taught in public schools here in the State of Montana. In this small town of Arlee there is a school that teaches young kids the Native American language it is called Nkwusm. It gives young kids the opportunity to know a part of their culture, it gives them the opportunity to say where proud to be Native American. I have a little cousin who is 6 years old and attends Nkwusm. She knows more of the language than I do and this is my senior year at Arlee High School office Native American language, and for the past 2 years that I have been here at Arlee I have taken this opportunity to learn the Native language. It has taught me alot with only the limited materials they give them to teach with. These classes also give the opportunity for other non-Indian people. It gives them the chance to learn something other than English. The opportunity to say what they learned something other than what is intended to learn in school. Both my Aunies teach at this school, I hope you give the opportunity to let them teach their language and hopefully preserve the Native language.

Miranda Fox

2/2/07

Dear Congressional Representatives,

I am an Native American I am also both a descendant to the Salish tribe and enrolled member on the Fort Belknap Res.

I attend the Arlee High School. I am not fluent in my native language, but I would love to be able to speak a language so old and powerful. I know many people would also love to be fluent. The Arlee community has an immersion school, which we are very privileged to have. The immersion school

practices all who go there, including me, the Salish language and the culture of the Salish. The Arlee Immersion School and other immersion schools need funds to support their school costs.

Sincerely

Everea Nault-Brazil

To whom it may concern: February 21, 2007

I am a Native American High School Student at Arlee. I want to ask you to please support the Native American languages in Montana. Many Montana tribes speak a Native language, and it would hurt the Native People very badly if you would take it away. There are only 55 fluent Salish speakers on the Flathead Reservation. The schools teach the language to students K-12. We also have a Native American Immersion School to preserve the Salish language. They only started out with 5 kids, but it has grown to many. They would have more children attend, but they need better facilities. My point is that it would be a great honor to keep the Native language in our schools, but it would be a terrible matter if you took that privilege away.

Thank you,
Tahitha-Anne Earlina

Feb, 21, 2007

Dear congressional Representative,

I am a Native American junior attending Arlee High School. As you probably know there are a few tribes who have Native American Immersion schools. In my community my tribe has an immersion school to preserve the Salish language. There are only 35 students aging from Kindergarten to age 12. There are only 55 fluent Salish speakers on our reservation. Our tribe has passed ordinances making Salish the first language of our people. My people and I strongly wish and urge you to vote in favor of passing HB,750... today. Funding from this bill will no doubtly help my people in returning our language to us. Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Richard Pierre

Richard Pierre

Dear Congressional Representatives

3/21/07

I am a student attending Acker High School. This letter is regards to the Immersion schools in the state of Montana. The immersion schools are depending on this grant to help teach their students, to help pay bills, and to help pay the teachers. The grant will help the immersion schools to expand their teachings by expanding their schools to a more wider range. Native American language needs to be preserved and taught to other children so they can teach them. Native American language is a part of a culture that is going dieing because nobody has a chance to teach the old ways. By supporting the Native American Immersion schools we can slowly get back our culture once again.

Sincerely

Nicole Brown
Nicole Brown

Feb 21-07

Dear Congressional Representatives
I am a student at Arlee High
School and have a little sister
going to the Salish Immersion
school. My sister has been there
since she was 4 and is now 6
years old and is learning Salish
language. As for myself I missed
that chance because we didn't
have the Salish school, Nkwusm
when I was younger, so I don't
know Salish as well but have taken
Salish all the way up through
High school. I would like to
see this bill passed because it
would help the Immersion school
expand to 50 kids instead of 35
kids. This funding will help all
the schools around Montana get
grants so that we can preserve
our language.

Sincerely

Chasney Miller

Dear Congressional Representatives, 2-21-07

Support Native American languages.

In the state of Montana - There is a lot of tribes who have Native American Immersion School.

In our white Native American Immersion School we have Native language taught to us from when we little to when we are grown up.

It is a pattern that is taught to us. There is 55 fluent Salish speakers on this reservation who are fluent in our Salish language. I'm a student that has learned some of the Salish language. But I'm still learning it at Arlee High School. I hope to see or become a fluent Salish speaker. I have learned the English very well but have hardly learned the Salish language of my ancestors. But I hope that we get more money for the kids that are learning the Salish language. It is a good thing for kids to learn the Salish language.

Respectfully yours,
Vince Sis

Dear Congressional Representatives, Feb. 27th, 2007.

My name is Ty Gardipe and I am 14 years old. I live on the Flathead Reservation. I am writing in regards to supporting Native American Languages. On our reservation we have the Nk'wsem Salish School. When the school first opened there were only 5 students, now they're expanding and almost have 50 students, in grades Kindergarten to Seventh grade. This is very important to me because the Salish language is my first language and my peoples first language. In our tribe there are only 55 fluent Salish speakers. I would love to see the younger generation be able to keep learning the language. This not only would mean a lot to me, but my entire reservation. So I hope that you help and vote in favor of passing H.B. 570 today.

Ty Gardipe,

Ty Gardipe

Dear Congressional Representatives,

I am writing this letter not as an assignment but on behalf of my Salish Speaking people of the Flathead Reservation. I hope that you pass the H.B. 750 bill so all of the Immersion Schools across the Nation can operate without worrying about where next year's grant money will come from... So now I ask you to vote in favor of the bill, because all of the tribes agree that there are too many language due to lack of funding and I ask on behalf of all three of my Siblers, my four cousins whom attend the Immersion School in Missoula, Montana or the Flathead Reservation.

I hope that you will see my way and vote to allow it to be native language in Montana and help me and others learn, because even though I had little chance to be Salish language which makes it hard for me to learn because I'm 16 yet this was due to no one trying to get a school system started in my life, so what ever you plan on voting for, first think about him I doing the right thing. A yes vote would be appreciated.

With Many thanks,

Toddie Pete Jr.

February 27th 2007

Dear Congressional Representatives

Skipper Native American language in the state
of Montana, I am a freshman at Arlee High School
and I think the native language should last until
the end of time. There is a Native American Immersion
School here on the Flathead Reservation & its probably
the best thing that can happen to this reservation.
There are now 35 kids now & there are 35 fluent
Salish speakers on our reservation so hopefully there will be
up to a 100 fluent speakers on our reservation, but the
school needs you help to expand the school. At
Arlee High School there not any one I know of that
is fluent in Salish I strongly recommend for you to
pass the bill H.B. 750 for the good of the Salish people,
the language, the kids & future generations.

Respectfully,
Kris Morgan

Feb. 21, 2007

Amyn J

2/21/07

Dear Congressional Representative,

I am a high school student and I am
concerned about the native American language
in the state of Arizona. There are only 88
Spanish speakers and I think we need the
Spanish language in our schools and like
at the English school I have a little girl
that goes there and he can speak better
English than she can so please keep it up
because you all the little kids are
starting to know it and I am learning
to.

Dear Congressional Representatives 2-6-21-07

Hello I am a Native American at Gold Hill High

School. I have been taking Salish Classes throughout my life.

Please support Native American language

In the state of Montana there are a

number of tribes who have started their own

Immersion Schools. On the Flathead Reservation

our community will have a Native American

Immersion school to restore Salish language. The

School has 35 students ages pre-kindergarten to age

12. There are 35 fluent Salish speakers

on the Flathead Reservation. We would

like for you to vote in favor of passing

HB 750 today. Endorse this bill will

help Native American language schools to expand. Let's

start to help Native Am. to preserve this Native

language/culture.

Sincerely yours,

Native American

Feb. 21, 2007

Dear Congressional Representatives

I am writing this letter to you, to ask for your support. I am asking for your support of the preservation of Native American language and support of the Native American Immersion schools. I am a tribal member of the Ogallala Sioux Tribe, and a 1st descendant of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I don't know any of the Sioux language but I do know some Salish, just from what I have learned through Salish class at school. I wish that I would have had the chance to attend an immersion school to learn my language, but the immersion school on the Flathead Reservation where I live wasn't operating until just four years ago, they started with only five students and now are up to thirty five students aging from pre-kindergarten to age 12. The immersion School (VK'usm) would like to have more students, but they don't have the funding. The funding from this Bill would help Native American Language Schools all over to apply for grants that would help preserve their language and also their culture. If the language dies our culture will also die. So please take my letter into consideration, and think of how grateful we would be as Christian people to have support from you to help preserve our language and culture.

Dear Congressional Representatives,

Support Native American languages in the state of Montana. I am a student at the Arlee High School, and I have been taking Salish for 3 years and I say that it is worth saving. The immersion school in Arlee has 355 students, from Kindergarten through the age of 12. We need funding to save the Salish language, because the Salish only have 55 fluent speakers here on the reservation. If ~~we~~ ^{they} don't get the funding they need at the immersion school it might shut down, and we'll loose more fluent speakers every year. The Immersion School is in its 4th year ~~at~~ here at Arlee, and it would be sad to see it go and not teach the children their own culture. I would want to see them learn their language, and know more about it. The funding would really help the immersion school get bigger for more children to go there. They are hoping to get 60 students if they get a bigger school to teach in. We strongly support the passing of H.B. 750.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Manzanares

2-21-0

Dear Congressional Representative

As a student of Arlee High School I am asking for you to pass the HB 750 for the Salish Immersion School there is only 55 fluent Salish speakers. And if you have it in your heart you'll pass it.

2/20/07
Dear Congressional Representatives

Please help support Native Americans in the state of Montana.

There are a number of Native American immersion schools. There is this school on this Reservation in Arlee that preserves Salish language. In this School of thirty-five children from kindergarten to the age twelve. We ask that in your support that you help this growing Salish speaking school in there needs. We ask you for the favor of passing HB 750 today.

Dear Congressional Representatives, 2-21-07

I am a student at Arlee High School & I support the Native American Language, I have taken classes which have taught me the Native language. There are only so many tribes left in the United States that speak their Native language. In some tribes this is not possible their language has died. I would like this Bill to pass, so that the Native language will live on. I know many students that go to the UK "Sun", which is a school where they can grow up speaking the Native tongue, & teach those who don't know. I am not fluent in the Native tongue but I think a few more classes & someone to help I could. The school has been there for 7 years and with out this Bill H.B. 750 the school would mean nothing.

Thank you,

Hoagy Hawerman